

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NEA-09 /030 W

----- 106676

R 260730Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1501

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - LEADING TAIPEI PAPERS SAW KING FAISAL'S DEATH HAVING EXTENSIVE IMPACT ON PEACE PROSPECTS IN MIDEAST, PREDICTED NO WAR THERE DESPITE REPORTED FAILURE KISSINGER'S MEDIATION EFFORTS BUT SAW INCREASING SOVIET ROLE. PAPERS CONTINUED HARSHLY QUESTION CREDIBILITY U.S. COMMITMENTS IN WAKE INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGED ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL WITH INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) AND KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) PREDICTING EXTENSIVE IMPACT ON MIDEAST PEACE PROSPECTS DUE FAISAL'S ANTI-COMMUNIST, PRO-U.S. REPUTATION PLUS HIS PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD.

3. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) AND CHINA DAILY NEWS (80,000) PREDICTED NO WAR IN THE MIDEAST  
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DESPITE REPORTED FAILURE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEDIATION

EFFORTS. BUT SAID PEACE WILL BECOME MORE ELUSIVE DUE INCREASING INTERVENTION USSR AT GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WITH MOSCOW HAVING MORE SAY IN FUTURE. UNITED DAILY URGED U.S. USE ITS DIPLOMATIC POTENCY AND WEIGHT AT THIS CRITICAL TIME.

4. TA HUA EVENING NEWS (60,000) SAID INDOCHINA SETBACKS POSED SERIOUS TEST OF U.S. COURAGE AND POLICY. ON ONE HAND, U.S. COULD RISE TO FACE THE CHALLENGE FIRMLY OR, ON OTHER HAND, U.S. CAN BECOME DESPONDENT AND COWARDLY. TO RUN AWAY FROM REALITY AND DISAVOW COMMITMENTS TO GENEVA PEACE ACCORD WHICH IT SIGNED WOULD HURT AMERICA AND FRIENDS ALIKE. TO TAKE NO ACTION WOULD LEAVE U.S. FRIENDLESS, DEFENSELESS AND HELPLESS IN FORTRESS AMERICA WITH EVENTUAL THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR HANGING OVERHEAD. IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SHUN WAR; BUT IT WON'T PAY TO BE COWARDLY OR WEAKLING. THE MORE COWARDLY THE SPIRIT, THE WEAKER WILL BE THE POLICY. AND A MISCALCULATION IS POSSIBLE SUCH AS HAS CAUSED MANY WARS IN HISTORY. DANGEROUS SITUATIONS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM LOUDLY PROVE THAT NIXON'S POWER-BALANCE IDEAS BROUGHT ONLY WAR WITH NO PEACE. WICKED MYTH OF SOCALLED NEO-ISOLATIONISM IS PUSHING U.S. DOWN ROAD TO NUCLEAR WAR.

5. INDEPENDENCE EVENING POST (40,000) IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "IS THE U.S. A TRUSTFUL FRIEND?" ANSWERED "NO." PAPER SAID FROM INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS, U.S., IN FORM OF CONGRESS, HAS TOLD WORLD THAT U.S. HAS TOTALLY EXHAUSTED ITS MORAL STRENGTH AND VALOR. U.S. HAS BECOME NATION NOT WORTH THE FAITH OF WORLD'S PEOPLE. PAPER EXPRESSED INDIGNATION, DISAPPOINTMENT AND SADNESS THAT U.S. HAS ONCE AGAIN PROVED ITSELF BOTH THE "BEST ENEMY" AND THE "WORST FRIEND." AMERICA'S FOES CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM U.S. ACTIONS WHILE AMERICA'S FAITHFUL FRIENDS ARE EITHER DESERTED OR ARE COLD-SHOULDERED AND DISHONORED.  
CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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